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Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 9, May 81 (signed to press 17 Apr 81) pp 85-86

[Unattributed article: "A Combat Assistant for the Officers; On the Occasion of the 60th Anniversary of VOYENNNY VESTNIK"]

[Text] The 60th anniversary has been marked for the Order of the Red Star journal VOYENNNY VESTNIK [Military Herald] an organ of the USSR Ministry of Defense.

Founded during the first year after the end of the Civil War, the journal has had a glorious campaign record along with the armed defenders of the Soviet motherland. Such Soviet military leaders as M. V. Frunze, K. Ye. Voroshilov, M. N. Tukhachevskiy, I. E. Yakir and I. P. Uborevich contributed largely to its development. The readers responded enthusiastically to the vivid articles written by B. M. Shaposhnikov, V. A. Antonov-Ovseyenko, Ya. F. Fabritsius, P. Ye. Dybenko, A. I. Kork, D. M. Karbyshev, many other famous Soviet commanders and political workers and specialists in military affairs.

VOYENNNY VESTNIK rapidly won recognition in the troops. On the occasion of its 5th anniversary, the newspaper PRAVDA wrote in May 1926 that the journal had become the "lever of Soviet power in firmly organizing the Red Army, a source for the class development of the command personnel and its printed organ which had due affection."

This high praise for VOYENNNY VESTNIK was reaffirmed during the difficult years of the Great Patriotic War. It armed the officers and all the men with the Leninist science of winning and urged them to military feats and to a complete defeat of the Nazi invaders.

In continuing its glorious traditions, the journal has constantly explained CPSU domestic and foreign policy and the constant concern of the party to strengthen the defense might of the Soviet state. It has enriched and disseminated advanced experience in the military and political training of the personnel; it has elaborated the pertinent questions of Soviet military art and has described the life of the armies in the socialist countries.

At present the journal is actively propagandizing the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and party policy in the area of strengthening defense. VOYENNNY VESTNIK is

endeavoring to increase the effectiveness of each article and to carry out the instructions of the USSR Minister of Defense that the journal become a true book for the platoon and company level officers.

The journal most consistently and profoundly takes up the subjects concerning combat readiness. A leading place is held by materials which elucidate the problems of Lenin's teachings about the defense of the socialist fatherland, the admonishments of the great leader to the Soviet military, the decisions of the party congresses and plenums of the CPSU Central Committee, the theses and conclusions contained in the works of Comrade L. I. Brezhnev and the other party and state leaders on defense questions. Combat experience is also widely and thoroughly taken up.

In relying on a broad group of authors, VOYENNY VESTNIK has concerned itself with the problems of military art, particularly tactics and the unswerving but still creative carrying out of the regulations and combat training programs. The journal effectively helps the officers in the training and indoctrination of the personnel, it propagandizes all that is new and advanced in their practice and acts decisively against routine and concessions in military and political training. In recent years its pages have contained thought-provoking discussions of the problems involved in the professional training of an officer, the use of the BMP [?infantry combat vehicle] in combat and others. Among the creative successes one could mention the discussion of the article by Guards Lt Col V. Sokolov entitled "Precise Cooperation -- The Guarantee for Victory in Combat." The commanders and political workers, the staff officers, the chiefs of the branches of troops and services, the instructors of military schools and the participants of the Great Patriotic War voiced instructive judgments and added to what the author had to say on the questions raised.

More materials have begun to be published on the training of personnel directly in the field, at the ranges and tank driving grounds, on indoctrinating the men in high combat activeness, an aggressive drive, psychological tenacity and endurance and on commander thinking under the conditions of modern combat.

In the types of articles inherent to it, the journal has convincingly explained that the successes of the personnel in military and political training are inconceivable without the reliance of the commanders on the party organizations and without well-thought-out, purposeful party political work. Using specific examples it has shown how the communists by the party word and personal example shape and develop in all servicemen such ideological and moral qualities as loyalty to the ideals of communism, fidelity to the cause of the CPSU, high political awareness, ardent patriotism and socialist internationalism, as well as the ability to honestly and conscientiously carry out one's military duty to the fatherland. Indicative in this regard is the article by Guards Sr Lt I. Savchin "The Strength of Party Influence." It takes up how a party organization in the paratroop company headed by the party bureau secretary, Guards Sr Lt V. Lipatov, united the collective and inspired the men to successes in the socialist competition. The communists were largely responsible for the fact that the company won the title of outstanding.

In carrying out the requirements of the Decree of the CPSU Central Committee of 26 April 1979 "On Further Improving Ideological and Political Indoctrination" as well as the recommendations of the conference of the Army and Navy command and political leadership, VOYENNY VESTNIK has made its contribution to turning each

party organization into a center of daily ideological and indoctrinational activities and to raising the indoctrinational role of the Soviet Armed Forces.

The journal has constantly drawn attention of the party aktiv and all communists to raising the scientific level of agitation and propaganda work, to strengthening its effectiveness, professionalism and concreteness, and to strengthening the tie with life and with carrying out the specific tasks of training and indoctrinating the personnel. In an article entitled, "The Military Collective--A Combat Family," the deputy unit commander for political affairs, Lt Col M. Yaroslavskiy, has pointed out that this can be attained in the instance that high ideological tempering of the communists and their Marxist-Leninist training are ensured as well as by the active participation of the leadership in daily ideological work in the masses.

The contents of the journal have been significantly up-dated in the course of preparing for the 26th CPSU Congress and the presently widespread propagandizing of its decisions. From issue to issue, VOYENNNYY VESTNIK has shown the constant concern of the party for the economic and defense might of the nation, for the Soviet Armed Forces and for strengthening their indoctrinational role. The duty and requirement for each officer and each communist, the journal reminds us, is to thoroughly study the Accountability Report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 26th Party Congress and all the documents of the high party forum and to be constantly guided by them. Along with all the military press, VOYENNNYY VESTNIK is mobilizing the men to successfully carry out the plans and requirements of the 26th CPSU Congress.

Inspired by the historic congress decisions and being steadily guided by them, the editorial staff and authors are focusing their efforts and creative initiative on improving the quality and effectiveness of the publications and are endeavoring to speak to the reader in a lively and interesting manner and to actively influence the strengthening of the combat readiness in the units and subunits, the development of the tactical thinking of the officers and the communist indoctrination of the men.

In entering the 61st year of the existence of VOYENNNYY VESTNIK, the editorial staff is adopting all the best from the acquired experience; it is assessing its work closely; it is mobilizing the unused opportunities and will evermore fruitfully realize its purpose as the combat assistant of the officer.

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ARMED FORCES

MILITARY DISCIPLINE: METHODS USED IN MOSCOW M.D. DESCRIBED

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 9, May 81 (signed to press 17 Apr 81) pp 37-43

[Article by Lt Gen A. Dolgov, first deputy chief of the Political Directorate of the Order of Lenin Moscow Military District: "The Effectiveness of Analyzing Military Discipline"]

[Text] In his opening speech at the 26th CPSU Congress, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev particularly emphasized that for carrying out the grandiose plans outlined by the high party forum it is essential first of all to have "a high feeling of responsibility and a firm, truly communist, aware discipline." The Armed Forces communists have adopted these instructions as one of the most important tasks.

Strong military discipline based upon the political awareness of the men is an indispensable condition in the struggle to increase the combat capability and readiness of the Army and Navy. Here it is essential to point out that the significance of discipline in military affairs at the present stage has increased enormously. Against the background of those intensive processes which are presently occurring in the Armed Forces, the necessity of the greatest possible strengthening in discipline is becoming evermore apparent. "The modern military organism requires maximum coordination of actions not only by individual servicemen but also flawless coordination and discipline among the interrelated military collectives," pointed out the member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Minister of Defense, Mar SU D. F. Ustinov. "At present the loss from any infraction of military discipline has immeasurably increased. Even the slightest manifestation of negligence or the failure to observe the established procedure by just one serviceman can lead to severe consequences, to unjustified losses and the failure to carry out the combat tasks."

All of this obliges the commanders, the staffs, the political bodies, the party and Komsomol organizations to constantly improve the forms and methods of work aimed at strengthening military discipline. And all the questions related to this work should be settled in an organic unity with the tasks of increasing combat readiness and the combat teamwork of the subunits and units.

In talking now about a further strengthening of military discipline, out of all the diverse activities here I would isolate one element which, in my view, demands the closest attention. It is a question of the methods of analyzing the state of military discipline in the units and subunits and the ways for improving them. Such a

posing of the question should not seem narrow. Objectivity in assessing the labor of many, many people and consequently the effectiveness of personnel indoctrination depend upon how purposefully and consistently we progress here.

Serious analysis of military discipline significantly widens the indoctrinational opportunities of the commanders, political workers, the party and Komsomol organizations. In particular, due to it it is possible to study in greater detail the particular features and moral atmosphere of one or another military collective and the mechanism of its effect on the various serviceman groups, to more fully detect the men inclined to violate proper order and to determine those who can have a positive influence on them. And the most important is that the analysis makes it possible to elaborate the correct paths and most effective forms of party political work in the area of strengthening military discipline among the personnel as well as to strengthen and develop healthy and highly moral relations in the military collective.

In our reports and verbal statements the words have long been customary: "An analysis of the state of military discipline has shown...." Yes, we could not conceive of this important area of our activities without analysis. But the entire question is how it, the analysis of military discipline, is actually carried out and on what level. For example, here are the documents and report notes which were compiled in one of the political sections. They were written by various persons and, let us emphasize, about the state of affairs in different units. The theme is the same: "the work of the commanders, the political workers, the party and Komsomol organizations in strengthening military discipline." When one reads these notes it is difficult to escape from the feeling that at least one-half of them was written by one person. Not only does the sequence of exposition coincide but also there are entire phrases and paragraphs! The conclusions are almost literally repeated.

One wonders where this close similarity comes from? Probably, all arises from a standard view, a stereotypic and very simplified approach to studying the question. Statistical reporting in the given instance has served as the first and probably the most important source of conclusions about the state of military discipline and here the figures are set long in advance. In obediently following the summary, the workers from the political section have written something similar and drawn the conclusion which would scarcely satisfy anyone. Thus one classification roams at times from statement to statement, from report to report: some units have reduced the number of violations of military discipline with all due praise while the number of disciplinary violations has increased by so many percent in others and these should be criticized.

But is it possible, in relying on bare numerical indicators to assess objectively and fully the true state of affairs in one or another collective? Such an approach to assessing such an involved phenomenon as discipline often leads to a situation where the report is produced automatically and life goes on by itself.

Certainly, it is not a question of excluding the statistical data from the analysis. A quantitative criterion is essential and indispensable in assessing military discipline. However, this criterion should be soundly complemented by a profound and thorough, comprehensive study of all the questions related to the state of military discipline.

Unfortunately, this has been learned by far from all the commanders and political workers. For some of them the quantitative indicators cover literally everything. Moreover, some in searching for the "right" figure endeavor to create apparent well-being and distort the reporting. Need it be proven that these actions cause serious harm to the matter. First of all they mislead the directing bodies and give rise to dangerous indifference. But most importantly they cause irreparable moral damage as the conscience and honesty of many people are put to the test.

Why do individual commanders and political workers compromise their conscience? Undoubtedly the basic reason is found in their personal qualities. A true communist is not enticed by an easy path or a dubious method of increasing his authority in the eyes of superiors. His convictions do not allow him to dissemble or to neglect those moral standards which he must instill in others. But since such instances are still often encountered there is reason to speak about the duty of a leader. This is indisputable. However objectivity also demands a critical glance at other factors.

Let us return to our example and ask ourselves: what conclusions should be drawn by the commanders of the units and subunits from such a formal approach to an analysis of military discipline? Here the logic is simple. One time a commander sent dependable information up the chain of command, without hiding anything, and was in a less advantageous position than the one who slightly "corrected" his data. This was done a second time and a third. Ultimately the honest person may begin to wonder if he should so expose himself. On the basis of its very superficial analysis the political section draws the appropriate conclusions. And naturally the one whose "indicators" are not brilliant falls behind. But let us assume the commander's position. He cannot explain to his subordinates that the political section is to blame, however he does not want to accept the status quo in that he should assess the labor and efforts of his subordinates objectively lest they lose confidence in themselves and him. Thus the political section without so desiring can force a person to take an unseemly step.

But what a price we often pay for the imperfection of the methods to analyze the state of military discipline and for an unobjective assessment of people's work! I repeat that those primarily to blame are they who follow the path of embellishment. There is no justification for this. However we should not disregard the factors which create suitable conditions for the incorrect actions by less principled leaders. In any military collective the state of discipline must not be judged either by formal indicators or by the rule of thumb following intuition.

I have repeatedly spoken with commanders and political workers on the regimental level. And the impression has been formed that even on this level there is at times a very simplified notion of what military collective could be considered highly disciplined. Their judgments come down to the following. The state of discipline is good, the men do not commit infractions for which a certain punishment is set according to the military regulations. This sounds convincing. But in essence it is very incomplete. Such an approach contradicts the spirit and the sense of the party's present demands. Discipline is not only the absence of infractions but is also a special political-moral atmosphere in a military collective which shows the high awareness of the personnel, their responsibility and constant readiness to carry out their sacred duty.

There are also comments of a different sort. When one studies certain recommendations and service descriptions of officials, the image of a disciplined officer is created as he is not late, he does not consume alcoholic beverages and carries out all orders. But the questions of how he works, is he capable of working intensely and at full strength, is he principled, and with what measure of responsibility he approaches the carrying out of duties--all of this is secondary and a question of unessential details. Let us state frankly that such an approach causes harm to the indoctrination of officers. Particularly in the staffs and headquarters bodies where the work of the men is not normed.

The discipline of an officer is not merely presence on the job in certain hours but rather the ability to work industriously and intensely and to contribute a maximum of benefit to the job assigned him and complete dedication of his forces and energy to indoctrinating and training subordinates. These qualities are formed as a result of purposeful ideological indoctrination of the commanders, the political workers, the party and Komsomol organizations.

Incidentally, in certain party collectives and political bodies the effectiveness of the measures is sometimes mechanically derived from the number of them considering that the more held the stronger the discipline. Understandably here there is a certain dependence. However one can scarcely draw conclusions on the effectiveness of the indoctrinational process on such grounds without risking mistakes. At the same time certain commanders and political workers are sincerely convinced that quantitative analysis of indoctrination is the main thing for elucidating the true state of discipline in a collective.

From this viewpoint the following fact is of interest. At a seminar of political workers conducted by the district political directorate a speech was given by a representative from one of the leading units, Maj G. Ivashchenko. He described what the communists were doing to increase the organization and solidarity of the military collective. One of the seminar participants, a secretary from the party organization of an adjacent unit, expressed doubt: "How is it that we also carry out similar measures but our results are lower?" The seminar participants began to seek an answer to this question jointly. In particular they asked the person who had raised the question who usually spoke at the Komsomol meetings and personnel meetings. It turned out that it was the commanders, the political workers and communists and not the Komsomol members and soldiers. And who usually took a decision to punish the rank and file? It turned out that it was predominantly the officers. Hence the warrant officers ["praporshchik"] and sergeants were excluded from disciplinary practices. And so on and so on. They discovered that the subunits had forgotten the main, strongest weapon, namely public opinion and the opinion of the comrades and fellow servicemen of a violator.

Thus, in the course of exchanging opinions, they were able not only to show that no two measures are alike but also to unobtrusively lead the seminar participants to a more profound understanding of the indoctrinational process and to a better realization of the effective ways for strengthening military discipline. The main thing was to convince them that no soldier should remain outside of a constant political influence.

A superficial approach to an analysis of military discipline gives rise to a lack of confidence in actions and to an imperfect work style among certain communist leaders. In permitting errors and at times making a rash decision they cause harm to the indoctrination of the personnel. I refer to, to put it mildly, the strange principle which we still encounter. For example, in a subunit or unit there has been a serious infraction of military discipline and the commander is reprimanded. But at the same time so are the deputies. This is done mechanically without delving profoundly into the essence of what occurred. Of course, the commander bears responsibility for everything but with an indiscriminate approach one can sooner cause indifference than raise responsibility. It is to be greatly regretted but individual political bodies and party organizations tolerate such instances and see nothing reprehensible in them and do not feel that in a military collective a false idea of strictness can gradually come into being. When reprimands begin to be given out on any pretext, they lose their indoctrinational value. And individual communist leaders, blinded by their preconceptions, cease to notice the harmful effects of their actions.

Once I had to talk with a commander on a very unpleasant question. In a short period of time he had given more than 20 reprimands to his subordinates who were young officers. He admitted that he had not gained anything from this but he defended his position arguing stubbornly: "I do not intend to reduce exactingness!" Where did this misconception come from and why had such a false notion of exactingness develop? It meant that they had not worked with the man -- he had not felt the necessary influence of the party organization and the political body.

On this question I would like to mention the work which was carried out not so long ago by the political section of the Kantemirov Guards Tank Division. Here also in certain subunits an attempt to resort to excessive reprimands was noticed. It was thwarted. However to thwart something is not the end of the matter. It is important to convince the men. The political section, in addition to other measures, determined, in particular, to resort to a small sociological study. A simple procedure was worked out to question the personnel for the purpose of establishing what role was played by reprimands and commendations in indoctrinating the men in a spirit of discipline.

The results of the questionnaire showed that commendations were more effective. Certainly this does not negate the indoctrinational role of disciplinary reprimands. On the basis of the research the appropriate work was carried out among the officers, warrant officers and sergeants. Their efforts were aimed at organizing the entire way of life and training for the men, the internal regimen and the standing of garrison and guard duty in accord with the regulations and orders and to prevent any deviations and weaknesses in this question.

A desire to seek out the most effective methods for influencing the strengthening of military discipline is characteristic for many political bodies and party committees. I feel that our discussion is most directly linked to the comment of V. I. Lenin who wrote that: "...To find the guilty party in the person of a chief is only a very small portion of the work." The main thing, the most important thing, in Lenin's mind, was to discover the roots of the shortcomings and to promptly and skilfully rectify the errors. And for this, he taught, "it is essential in the first place, to study and learn the running of things at one or another institution,

enterprise, section and so forth; secondly, to promptly carry out the necessary practical changes and actually implement them." At the same time some people forget this.

As was pointed out at a meeting of the Army and Navy command and political personnel, it is not enough to tell a serviceman that he should be disciplined and efficient. It is essential to put him under the conditions of strict military order and the proper organization of combat training and all the life of the unit or subunit and see to it that each serviceman bears personal responsibility for the actions of his subunit and the latter for each man.

In our party organizations, as in others, the men are thinking and searching. This helps to skillfully resolve the questions of strengthening military discipline and enriches experience. It is important to promptly spot this, to skillfully generalize and actively disseminate it. It is one thing to urge others to work effectively but something quite different to actually demonstrate how something can and should be done.

But at times advanced experience is shown superficially, shallowly and using general phrases. For this reason it is difficult to understand what the essence is. For example, a political section began to describe the work of the party organization in improving an analysis of military discipline and increasing the role of the military collectives in strengthening proper organization and order. This was a necessary matter. All the more as it was a question of a unit where there had been no major disciplinary infractions for many years. And certainly experience could be found here. But what can we learn about this from the review prepared by the political section officers which states, in particular, "the party committee and primary party organizations are endeavoring to improve the forms and methods of work in indoctrinating the military collectives. Particular attention is paid to indoctrinating the men in conscientiously carrying out their duty and raising the role of the collective in developing the sociopolitical activeness of the personnel. All this work is aimed at carrying out the tasks of military and political training. The party organization has promptly outlined measures to increase the role of the military collectives and is constantly carrying them out...."

All of this is correct and...obvious. Wherein lies the new or the value of this experience? You would agree that it would be hard to draw anything useful from this. At the same time from certain commanders, political workers and party organization secretaries you can hear: "Well, there is no special benefit but also no harm." Wrong! There is harm. It lies in the fact that all of this encourages empty phrases which become customary. If one also considers the time and energy spent on preparing such materials the content of which is restricted to just the repetition of well-known truths, it becomes particularly apparent how great are the failings of such work.

To learn to analyze facts and to abandon customary schemes, no matter how difficult this may be, is no easy task. I must confess that I am apprehensive of the workers who "know everything." Such an officer arrives in a unit, he leafs through the reports and statements, he passes through the subunits, he says a couple of phrases with one man and smokes a cigarette with another and that is it. The material and conclusions are ready! He supposedly had learned a good deal about this unit

previously and the present trip is needed merely to fill out his pad with fresh facts and affirm his existing opinion. This means that the inspector did not take the trouble to analyze in detail the state of military discipline in the concrete collective and to delve deeper in order to see the essence of the matter behind the superficial layer of cursory impressions.

Generally speaking practice convincingly affirms that only a profound and serious analysis of military discipline is effective. We are actively introducing such analysis. We are concerned with it in all inspections, final and routine, and on all levels. For the same purpose strict accounting is kept, as the corresponding documents require, from the subunit up to the district staff, and the periodicity of reports has been set. An analysis of the reports and accounting data makes it possible to have a good knowledge of the state of affairs in the troop collectives, to effectively take the necessary measures and prevent misdeeds. It is very important that the commanders, staffs and political bodies ably use this rich information, understand events, analyze numerical indicators, draw lessons and make the correct conclusions.

In the political directorate we devote a great deal of attention to the style and methods of work of the inspector and instructor in the troops. A majority of our workers have a good knowledge of their duties, they carefully study the problems, they check the facts, they are always objective and are guided by the interests of combat readiness.

The officers from the political directorate are constantly focused on organizing vital work with the men and primarily in the primary troop collective. We see in this the key to solving all the problems. Ultimately no efforts from above will bring success if they do not influence the specific men. It is essential to not merely propose a slogan but rather to enter the company, battery or squadron, that nucleus where the life of the personnel occurs and where are the sources of all useful initiatives and causes of negative phenomena. Diverse work in indoctrinating discipline among the men should be carried out directly in the subunits, in the barracks, primarily by the commanders, by the political workers and all communists considering that the subunit is the center of political indoctrination.

Recently I happened to read a document prepared by the officers of our directorate who were studying the effectiveness of party political work in one of the district subunits. It was aimed at analyzing the influence of military discipline on all aspects of the life of the unit's personnel. The comrades who prepared the document considered, of course, the quantitative indicators and the thematic focus of the mass measures as well. They had become familiar with various plans. However they devoted a significant portion of the time to talking with the personnel. And these talks were not of a random nature but kept within the limits of the overall plan. As a result it was possible to bring out key aspects without which it would have been simply impossible to draw evaluation conclusions on the level of discipline and cohesiveness in the collective.

We would point out that these talks provided a rather complete notion of the mood of the men including their interests, their readiness to talk about themselves and their comrades, responsibility for the success of the common cause and a sincere feeling for the shortcomings and for the course of the socialist competition in the

collective. When the political directorate officers generalize the information obtained by them, from a number of features they were convinced that the subunit commander, Lt Col V. Sorokin, was highly regarded by the men. He is an exacting officer but at the same time is simple and amiable. They willingly go to him with professional proposals and personal requests. In addition to lectures and reports which are given in the plans, the communist frequently talks with the young men in a relaxed situation. Other communists also stood out. Ultimately it was possible to see as if with the eyes of the basic mass of men the work done by the party organization as a whole. The talks affirmed the proposal that in the subunit the aktiv had been successfully selected and it had a very tangible influence on the men.

These complete data made it possible with greater certainty to judge, to put it figuratively, the health of the military collective and the effectiveness of indoctrination in it.

Such an approach to an analysis of military discipline is the most effective. We are teaching the commanders and political workers and all our personnel precisely such a style of work.

In our daily activities we are trying to move farther and to improve the work style of the political directorate officers, we systematically instruct the political bodies and help them in seeking out specific ways for strengthening military discipline and in analyzing the effectiveness of the party political work aimed at this.

Understandably it is not so complicated to speak and write about the necessity of improving the work style or the methods of analyzing and strengthening military discipline. It is more difficult to be concerned with this on a practical basis since such work entails a certain psychological adjustment and demands tenacity and constant creative effort. But precisely such a task has been posed by the 26th CPSU Congress for the communists. We are obliged to carry it out and to carry it out with honor.

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ARMED FORCES

PARTY-POLITICAL WORK: ACTIVIST TRAINING IN THE GSFG

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[Article by Maj Gen G. Gromov, first deputy chief of the Political Directorate of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany: "Let Us Increase the Party Aktiv"]

[Text] In the Accountability Report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 26th Party Congress, Comrade L. I. Brezhnev pointed out that the results of the work done by the party organization are the total of many and very diverse components. Undoubtedly among these components is the daily concern of the party aktiv, for its indoctrination and training and creative participation in party-political work.

In the units and formations the communists who are commanders, political workers, the party organization secretaries, the party committee and bureau members, the party group organizers, the propagandists and agitators, those who have been elected to the leading trade union and Komsomol bodies and other comrades who conscientiously carry out organizational and ideological work are rightly called party activists. The composition of the elected party bodies to a large degree was replaced in the course of the pregress report and election campaign when many new men assumed leadership of the party collectives. This entire numerous party aktiv requires constant attention and aid from the political bodies and party organizations in order to train, instruct and indoctrinate it.

The training and indoctrination of the aktiv is a broad concept. Practice shows that the role of a party activist, as a political fighter, depends primarily upon his ideological conviction which is strengthened and developed along with a profound mastery of Marxism-Leninism and as knowledge and experience in life are acquired. Ideological conviction serves as the basis for an activist position in life and a guide to action in carrying out practical tasks which confront the party organizations.

At present the materials of the 26th CPSU Congress are at the center of the ideological and theoretical studies of the party aktiv. To make each activist profoundly aware of the historic decisions of the high party forum and to define his place in the daily carrying out of these decisions are a task of great importance for the political bodies and party organizations.

Meetings with the delegates of the 26th CPSU Congress have evoked particular interest among the party activists. For example, the speeches by the congress delegates the member of the CPSU Central Committee, Arm Gen M. Zaytsev, the member of the CPSU Central Auditing Commission, Col Gen I. Gubin, Col Gen Avn V. Korochkin and others left an indelible impression among our aktiv. Such meetings disclose to the participants the historic significance of the congress and its contribution to the further development of Marxist-Leninist theory and they mobilize the communists to steadily carry out the party's plans and to increase the combat readiness of the formations, units and subunits as much as possible.

The political bodies and party organizations of the group of forces have developed an ordered system for training the party aktiv. In this system an important place has been given to the Marxism-Leninism universities. Here the party activists gain the necessary knowledge in the area of Marxist-Leninist theory, party construction, practical party political work and become familiar with its advanced experience. For example, in the university where Maj V. Berkun is the chief, many activists are studying on the faculty of party construction and party political work. Here the exercises are conducted by experienced instructors and propagandists who are commanders and political workers. This helps organize and conduct the instruction of the aktiv in close tie with life, the tasks confronting the troops and the military traditions of the units and formations in which the party activists serve. The university students profoundly study the materials and decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress and propagandize them among the servicemen in mobilizing the men to carry out the congress instructions on dependably defending the peaceful creative labor of the Soviet people.

The evening party schools play a major role in the instruction of the party aktiv. Basically the party group organizers and communists working in the Komsomol study in them. Here they gain the necessary ideological-theoretical knowledge and practical skills. In the units the school students take an active part in the preparation and holding of Lenin readings and lessons and special-subject evenings, they give talks on the materials of the 26th CPSU Congress and help the men in studying them.

A significant portion of the party activists are improving their theoretical training in the system of officer Marxist-Leninist studies. In the party committees and bureaus it has become a rule to take an interest in who of the party activists has selected what form of ideological study and to help them in drawing up and carrying out long-range study plans and to broaden their political viewpoint.

The political bodies and party organizations are doing a good deal so that the universities, the evening party schools and seminars, as was mentioned at the 26th CPSU Congress, everywhere become effective centers for vital party thoughts and words. As an example, take the work in this area carried out by the party committee of unit X where one out of every three communists is studying in the Marxism-Leninism university. The party committee is constantly concerned that all the students profoundly study the materials of the 26th CPSU Congress and take an active part in explaining them to the men. Thus, the communists V. Mineyev, V. Semenchenko and V. Silayev have already spoken to their fellow servicemen on the documents of the 26th CPSU Congress. At its session the party committee heard statements by the university students V. Bayev, A. Oponchenko and O. Kalbazov. They spoke about how they were participating in the agitation-propaganda and ideological indoctrination

work, how they were bringing what they had learned to the soldiers, what influence they had on the men and in what manner they were uniting and unifying the military collective.

The theoretical conferences and colloquiums have become a well-recommended form of ideological study for the aktiv. In the course of studying the documents of the 26th Congress, they have become widespread. The conferences held in the formations have examined the following subjects: "The Increased Leading Role of the CPSU--The Most Important Pattern of Developed Socialism," "The Creative Development of the Leninist Work Style in the Books by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev 'Malaya Zemlya,' 'Vozrozhdeniye' [Rebirth] and 'Tselina' [Virgin Lands]" and "Leninist Teachings on the Defense of the Socialist Fatherland and Its Embodiment in the Practical Activities of the CPSU."

In the party organizations theoretical colloquiums have been held on the subjects "The 26th CPSU Congress on the Party's International Policy and the Tasks of Raising Troop Combat Readiness," "The 26th CPSU Congress on the Questions of Party Construction" and "The 26th CPSU Congress on the Tasks of Ideological Work at the Present Stage." The communists highly praised the effectiveness of these colloquiums. At them they voiced their opinion, they used rich factual material and profoundly brought out the essence of the questions raised. The students were enriched by a scientific understanding of the occurring social phenomena and processes. It is no surprise that after such colloquiums the party activists, in using the obtained knowledge, willingly went to the subunits, conducted talks with the men and gave lectures and reports.

The other forms of work used by the political bodies, party committees and bureaus also are of good help in enriching the activists with new knowledge and experience and in broadening their ideological viewpoint. For example, there are the lectures and reports given on the problems of party construction by the lecturers from the district political directorate, the commanders, the political workers, the members of the agitation and propaganda collectives and the Lenin and sociopolitical readings.

With all the diversity of these organizational forms in the theoretical training of the party aktiv, its basic method is the independent study of the founding works of Marxism-Leninism, the materials of the 26th CPSU Congress and the other party documents as well as the rich experience of party work. This is the most fruitful way for improving ideological-theoretical and practical knowledge.

A majority of the party committees and bureaus keep the independent studies of the party activists under constant control, they systematically conduct individual colloquiums with them on the studied materials and hear reports by these persons at their sessions. Such a style of work is inherent to the party committee of unit X. Here the communists P. Shpakovich, A. Zubkov, N. Seredenko and others devote great attention to independent studies. They constantly feel the support of the party committee and experienced propagandists. Having studied the materials of the 26th CPSU Congress, these activists give regular reports in the subunits on the prospects of our nation's economic and social development. The diverse theoretical training, high professional skills and personal example in combat training have made it possible for them to convincingly explain the congress documents and the tasks of

strengthening our motherland's defense capability and to mobilize the men to improve their military skills.

Directly linked to ideological and theoretical training is the instruction of the activists in the skills of carrying out party political work. Here an important place is given to the assemblies and seminars. In the political bodies these are conducted in accord with the directives of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy.

I would like to take up the organization and the goals pursued, for example, by the assemblies conducted in the district political directorate. At the last meeting basic attention was given to an analysis of the work of the party organizations aimed at ensuring high combat readiness, indoctrinating the personnel and strengthening military discipline. There was an extensive exchange of opinions on the given questions. We were also concerned with improving the theoretical training of the secretaries. Comrades from the leadership of the group of forces, lecturers from the political directorate and specialists in various areas of military knowledge gave lectures and reports to them.

A majority of the exercises have been carried out on a differentiated basis. Sections were created according to the military specialty of the units at which the appropriate chiefs spoke. Several hours of work were devoted to specific questions of internal party life. In conclusion, on the basis of one of the leading units in the group of forces, an exercise was conducted at which the activists became acquainted with the organization of the socialist competition in various types of combat training. The well-planned approach to the discussed questions and the close linking of theory and practice made it possible for us to arm the party activists with a clear prospect in their work and an understanding of how to better utilize the entire mechanism of the party's influence on carrying out the tasks confronting the troops.

Recently the political bodies of the group of forces more and more often have begun to hold meetings for the party activists from the branches of troops and special troops. In our view, this practice has proven fully effective. The communists spoke about this at the report-election meetings and party conferences. What is the advantage of such meetings? Above all in the fact that they take up the questions of party work considering the specific nature of the units and subunits, the subject of the discussion is made more specific and the participants have a greater interest in each exercise. Such meetings are held on the basis of the leading units and formations the experience of which becomes available to each participant. For example, here is how a meeting was held with the party activists from the Air Defense Troops. In a number of units they first studied the positive experience as well as the characteristic shortcomings in party work. In talking with the political workers and the party organization secretaries they defined the range of questions for which the activists wanted answers in the course of the meeting. The exercises were carefully prepared and carried out in one of the best air defense units. The meeting participants analyzed the results of party work in the subunit on alert duty. Speaking to them were political workers who had just returned from firings as well as officers from the political directorate, the leadership and specialists of the Air Defense Troops. The basic party of the time was devoted to practical exercises in the course of which they demonstrated the work procedures of a party aktiv during alert duty,

in organizing the socialist competition for the tasks and standards as well as examined other questions. At the conclusion of the meeting, all its participants attended an evening held in the unit to celebrate the leaders of alert duty.

In having a differentiated approach to the studies of the aktiv, in recent years the political bodies have begun to particularly separate out the secretaries of the staff and headquarters party organizations among the other activists. This makes sense. As is known, the 26th Party Congress pointed out that the solution to the problems which confront us depends largely upon the level of leadership and the level of planning and management. Such a dependence can also be traced under army conditions. In this regard a greater role is to be played by the party organizations of the staffs and headquarters and the practice of conducting special seminars for the secretaries of these organizations is becoming evermore widespread.

Such a seminar was informatively held in the political section where Officer A. Puzankov serves. In the course of the seminar there was an exchange of experience aimed at further increasing the activeness of the party organizations in the staff and there was also a discussion about improving planning and leadership. The question was raised of the participation of communists from headquarters bodies in propagandizing the materials of the 26th CPSU Congress. The activists were unanimous that a seminar should serve well in improving their practical activities.

However it must be recognized that far from all the seminars and meetings are carried out as a modern level of party work would demand and not all of them are a real school for the party activists. Certain seminars come down to the giving of lectures and they are divorced from the life and from the practical affairs of the party organizations. In the unit where Maj V. Mikhal'chuk is one of the party committee members, far from all the activists provide effective aid to the commanders and political workers in carrying out ideological indoctrination and raising the effectiveness of the socialist competition. The activists do not always appear as the organizing core of the party collectives and in some places from their deeds and actions it can in no way be seen that they are people whose duty is to lead fellow servicemen and to be in the vanguard of the troop collectives. Why does this happen? Primarily because there is a good deal of formalism in the training and indoctrination of the party aktiv. Basically only the party committee secretary and the deputy commander for political affairs speak at the seminars. As a rule, the seminar itself is reduced to a lecture and one or two instructional reports. Here there is no exchange of experience and no exercises on the particular features of conducting party work at a range or tank driving grounds. Certain activists do not have sound skills in persuading people, they have not been inculcated in a proper sense of responsibility for the assigned job and there is little control over their independent studies and practical activities. Hence the weak influence of the aktiv on the state of affairs in the unit.

In giving great attention to the party organization secretaries as the main element of the party aktiv, the political bodies do not forget the other members of the elected party bodies. Their forms of instruction are diverse. For example, the deputy secretaries are invited to seminars along with the secretaries. In a number of political bodies they periodically hold seminars for the members of the party committees and bureaus. They make it a practice in the political bodies to hear reports by party committee members responsible for a specific area of party work. For the same purpose extensive use is made of speeches by political body officers at

sessions of the party committees or meetings of the party aktiv in summing up the results of their work in the party organizations. All of this has had a positive effect on raising the activeness and improving all the activities of the committees and bureaus as collective leadership bodies. However, this work in a whole number of political bodies still is of an episodic nature, it does not have a precise system and for this reason requires the greatest possible improvement.

We would particularly like to mention the training and indoctrination of such a numerous category of the party aktiv as the secretaries of the company party organizations and the party group organizers. As a rule, these are young communists who do not have sufficient experience in party work and probably particularly need help and support. To pass on this experience to them and help ensure the personal example set by the communists in training and service are a task which is successfully carried out by many political bodies, party committees and political workers.

For example, here is how training is organized in the company aktiv of unit X. Even before the end of the reports and elections in the company party organizations, the deputy commander for political affairs along with the party committee secretary planned instruction for the newly elected aktiv. Here they considered the tasks confronting the collective and the criticisms voiced about the training of the aktiv in the course of the report and election meetings. In accord with the plan compiled for the 6 months, in the seminars lectures were given, instructional reports were made and questions discussed concerning the practice and experience of internal party life and the running of party affairs. Such seminars are held monthly.

Here great significance is given to the instruction of the aktiv in the course of carrying out combat training tasks. The political workers and party committee members, in being constantly at the tank firing drills and tactical exercises, are profoundly aware of the concerns of the party organization secretaries, they help them analyze shortcomings on the spot and suggest and actually demonstrate how activities must be organized under conditions as close as possible to real combat. For example, in the battalion where Maj M. Shevchenko is the party organization secretary, the influence of the party aktiv on the course of carrying out the tasks by the personnel in the field was weak and the personal example set in training by certain activists was also low. The party committee members helped the aktiv in organizing specific party work and were strict with those who worked half-heartedly. As a result, a majority of the activists subsequently organized their activities correctly, they demonstrated high personal examples and were able to mobilize the personnel to successfully carry out the pending tasks.

Before the men go on alert duty and on the eve of major sociopolitical measures, such a form of training for the party aktiv as instructional exercises is also employed. These are conducted by the chiefs and other workers from the political bodies, the deputy commanders for political affairs and the party committee and bureau secretaries. They explain the tasks to the activists, they suggest the forms and methods of work and answer the arising questions. Often the instructional exercises are a completely applicable form of training the aktiv in exercises and under conditions of a dynamic, rapidly changing situation.

The party aktiv meetings play an important role in indoctrinating the activists and in mobilizing them to carry out the tasks confronting the organizations. These are conducted on a formation level approximately once a quarter and are also convened

periodically on the level of the group of forces. They discuss the tasks stemming from the most important party decisions, the orders and directives of the USSR minister of defense and the chief of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy, the questions of the ideological indoctrination of communists and their leading role in service, training and the socialist competition and the problems of improving internal party life. Party aktiv meetings have been held creatively and on a professional level in the group of forces and they discussed the tasks stemming from the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress for the party organizations. The communists voiced specific proposals aimed at improving organizational and ideological work as well as the strengthening of its influence on all aspects of the life and activities of the troops.

The significance of such meetings in the development and indoctrination of the aktiv is obvious. They provide it with a broad rostrum for discussing and settling urgent and pertinent questions, they ensure collectivism in work and help to indoctrinate the personnel in a spirit of party loyalty and to develop criticism and self-criticism. At the same time such meetings make it possible for the political bodies to consult with the aktiv as well as to acquire and disseminate advanced experience. Thus, at an aktiv meeting in one of the formations, the speakers P. Kirichenko and N. Bashtan shared the experience of the communists in the subunits which had honorary names and for a number of years running had maintained the title of outstanding.

Our political bodies have selected individual work with the activists and providing help to them on the spot as the basic method of training and indoctrinating the aktiv. Life has affirmed that such an approach is effective and makes it possible to specifically teach the aktiv to solve specific problems considering the real state of affairs in the military collective and to analyze its actions in the process of the work itself. The political section of formation X has skillfully organized the training of the aktiv on the spot. Its chief systematically meets with the party committee and bureau secretaries; he gains information from them about the state of party work and the examples set by the communists; he directs each of the activists to solve the main problems and suggests in what manner it is possible to further improve the means of party influence on the life and training of the personnel. The officers from the political section, while in the units, exchange opinions and experience with the activists; they help them in preparing the meetings; they analyze the reasons for failures and advise how to most effectively influence the men. Often such aid is provided in the course of the exercises and field firings and in carrying out other combat training tasks. The work results are often summed up at sessions of the party committees and bureaus to which are invited the commanders, political workers and the secretaries from the battalion and company party organizations. Here reports are given by the chief and other officers visiting the unit from the political section. The thorough discussion, the collective analysis of experience and the committed shortcomings as well as the determining of the causes and ways for eliminating various abnormal phenomena make it possible for the activists to clearly see the directions for further activity and an improvement in its style.

The political section has made it a practice to hear reports by the party committee and bureau secretaries and to invite them for a talk on the specific areas for the activities of the party organizations. Each such invitation is preceded by a trip to the spot by the political section officers. Thus, recently the political section

heard reports by the party organization secretaries Maj Yu. Kuz'min "On Raising the Activeness and Militancy of the Party Organization in Ensuring the Combat Training Tasks" and Capt A. Konovalov "On the Work of the Party Organization in Propagandizing and Carrying Out the Decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress." Upon the recognition of the party leaders themselves, the discussion in the political section sharpened their sense of responsibility for the assigned area and for carrying out the party decisions; it helped disclose and eliminate shortcomings and had a positive impact on their further activities and on strengthening party influence on all aspects of the life of the units and subunits.

In recent years the exchange of experience among the party committees and bureaus of competing regiments has become widespread as one of the forms for training the aktiv. The mutual visiting of the units by the activists and a study of the most effective methods of party influence on those problems of training and service which have been better settled by the rivals in the competition enrich the aktiv with valuable experience and help to improve the situation in the units and subunits. For several years now two units from the Urals-L'vov Guards Volunteer Tank Division imeni Mar SU R. Ya. Malinovskiy have been competing with each other. The activists contribute to this in helping the commanders develop military rivalry. They do not keep their experience a secret but, rather, generously share it, by inviting each other to meetings, party committee sessions and exercises and immediately reviewing their experiences. The most effective forms and methods are taken up and introduced into practice. The force of party influence on the carrying out of tasks confronting the units is growing.

The 26th CPSU Congress pointed out that internal party information is an inseparable element in the democratic life of the party. The aktiv is the propounder of such information. In order that it can successfully carry out this task, the political bodies endeavor to constantly keep up on the most important party decisions and events in domestic and international life. For this they use courses, seminars, meetings of the party aktiv, conferences, instruction sessions and personal contacts. It has become a rule that the officers from the political directorate and party bodies, while in the troops, must without fail speak to the activists and inform them of the decisions taken by the leading party bodies, how these decisions are being carried out, of the domestic and foreign policy of our party and of the experience acquired in other party organizations.

The unit and subunit commanders and their deputies for political affairs work closely with the party organization secretaries. They effectively direct the secretaries and all the party aktiv to carry out the pending tasks and give advice on how to utilize the forms and methods of indoctrinating the personnel. In turn the party organization secretaries inform them of the work being carried out and of those questions which concern the communists. The coordinated actions by the commanders and party organizations serve as one of the most important conditions for the successful activities of the troop collectives.

The training and indoctrination of the party aktiv is a creative matter which does not tolerate routine or stagnation. The political bodies, the party committees and bureaus are constantly improving the forms and methods for training the activists, they are searching for new ways to improve their efficiency and are stubbornly fighting so that the aktiv masters such traits of the Leninist work style as ideological

conviction, professionalism, principledness, initiative and a high sense of responsibility for the assigned job. Collective training combined with individual work and an atmosphere of sincerity and exactingness--under these conditions the party aktiv of the group of forces is developing.

The activists skillfully combine carrying out official duties with involvement in social life. An absolute majority of them has demonstrated a high personal example and has led the men to the heights of military skill. Around 80 percent of the communists comprising the party aktiv of the group of forces are outstanding men in military and political training and almost 90 percent are specialists with a higher rating. All the outstanding regiments and 95 percent of the outstanding companies are led by party activists who also receive the high recognition of their comrades for their social activities.

At the same time we, unfortunately, still often encounter instances of an insufficient attention to the training of the activists and poor quality meetings and seminars conducted by individual political bodies. At times in the lectures and reports for the aktiv there are many truisms, they prove the already proven and, on the contrary, lack procedural recommendations and professional advice which the aktiv so needs. There have been instances when only the party committee secretary is involved in training the company aktiv while the leadership of the regiments and the political body workers are only concerned with the party committee.

The shortcomings in the training and indoctrination of the aktiv have a negative effect also on the personal example set by individual activists. Thus, in certain collectives up to 30 percent of them have only satisfactory results in combat training. That is, a situation develops whereby the words of the party activists differ from their deeds and their authority is not reinforced by achievements in daily military service. This tells negatively on the overall results in the combat training of the units and subunits. Understandably we cannot tolerate such a situation.

At present extensive organizational and political work in thoroughly studying, propagandizing and carrying out the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress is one of the main areas in the activities of the party aktiv of the group of forces. In order that this task is carried out more effectively and with better quality and in close link to the tasks of raising the combat readiness of the troops, improving the training process and strengthening discipline, the political bodies and party organizations are steadily improving the forms and methods of training and indoctrination for the party aktiv.

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GROUND FORCES

AIRBORNE TROOPS: REGIMENT-LEVEL POLITICAL INDOCTRINATION

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[Article by Col V. Ivonin, lecturer from the political section of the airborne troops: "The Concerns of a Regimental Propagandist"]

[Text] The propagandist of the paratroop regiment, Sr Lt Yevgeniy Korotayev, woke up earlier than usual that morning as this was the day they were to begin studying the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress in the political exercise groups for the soldiers and sergeants. Both the soldiers, the officers and Korotayev himself had long been preparing for this stirring moment.

The first familiarization with the congress materials started on the very day of its opening. This day, 23 February 1981, will never be forgotten. Yevgeniy Korotayev arrived in the regiment early in the morning in his dress uniform. All the soldiers, sergeants and officers were in a festive and uplifted mood.

A meeting was held. In listening to the inspired speeches of the men, Sr Lt Korotayev was also greatly moved. For the first time in his life he was to propagandize the materials of a party forum among the paratroopers. How would he succeed? Where would he find the essential, most accurate and descriptive words?

He had been thinking constantly about this....

The essential words came immediately as soon as Korotayev among the other regimental political workers began watching the direct TV broadcast from the Kremlin Palace of Congresses. On the large screen was the enormous meeting hall filled with the representatives of the Leninist party. In a festive mood L. I. Brezhnev declared the congress open.

Korotayev began writing in his notepad: "Some 5,002 delegates were elected to the 26th CPSU Congress. Some 4,994 attended...." Yevgeniy had particularly taken his pad to write down certain theses of the report. Over the page ran line after line of small, neat handwriting: "The Leninist general line of the party is steadily being carried out; the tasks raised at the preceding congress as a whole have been successfully carried out.... As a result of the Tenth Five-Year Plan there was a significant increase in the national wealth of the country. Its productive and scientific-technical potential also rose. The defense capability of the Soviet

state was strengthened. The level of prosperity and culture of our people has risen."

The ball point skimmed quickly over the paper, filling sheet after sheet. Korotayev was aware that tomorrow there would be the newspapers with the full text of the report by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev. But he still wrote and wrote. In making the notes he also began to analyze the materials of the party congress. In the evening he had already acquainted the men with the contents of the Accountability Report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 26th Party Congress.

On the next day Korotayev and other political workers conducted political information sessions and talks in the subunits on the start of the work of the 26th CPSU Congress. The personnel was informed regularly about the course of the congress' work in following days as well. In the regiment their propagandist was the initiator and immediate organizer of many mass agitation measures.

As soon as the congress was over, Sr Lt Korotayev went to the deputy regimental commander for political affairs, Lt Col Vladimir Andreyevich Sherstyuk, with proposals for the comprehensive plan of measures to propagandize the materials of the 26th CPSU Congress.

"Well, let us talk about it, Yevgeniy Nikolayevich," said the lieutenant colonel looking at the text. In principle the propagandist's plan was not a new one. Korotayev had already drawn up a detailed plan in studying the subject "The Leninist Communist Party--The Mind, Honor and Conscience of Our Age" in the political exercises. At that time it had been very successful and many ideological means had been used so that the soldiers and sergeants would master the material more thoroughly. What had been proposed this time?

Korotayev's notes envisaged what part could be played by the regimental commander, his deputy for political affairs and the propagandist himself in propagandizing and explaining the congress documents to the personnel as well as what role could be played in this area by the regimental party and Komsomol committees, by the agitation and propaganda group, as well as by the unit club and library. First the propagandist had sought the advice of numerous commanders and political workers as well as other officers. Thus, it was agreed with the regimental commander that he would give a lecture for the officers on the subject "The 26th CPSU Congress on Strengthening National Defense and Raising the Combat Readiness of the Soviet Armed Forces," before the studying of the congress materials at political exercises he would speak at a seminar for the group leaders and then participate in conducting political exercises in the second battalion.

The deputy regimental commander for political affairs was to give a lecture to the officers on the subject "The 26th CPSU Congress--An Important Historic Mark on the Path of Building Communism," and hold an instructional seminar for the unit political workers on organizing mass agitation work in explaining the materials of the 26th Party Congress.

With the agreement of the party committee secretary, the comprehensive plan was to include the following measures: a seminar for the secretaries of the subunit party organizations on work in explaining the party congress materials to the personnel,

the hearing at a party committee session of a statement by the deputy commander for political affairs in the 3d Battalion, Capt S. Ivanov, on the course of studying the party congress by the men and others. *

The secretary of the regimental Komsomol committee proposed including in the comprehensive plan an instructional exercise for the members of the Komsomol-youth lecture group along with other measures.

Nor did the plan overlook the unit club, library or radio station. Plans were made to show artistic and documentary films devoted to the Communist Party and to the successes of the Soviet people in the construction of communism. There were also to be special-subject mornings and evenings, oral magazines, selections of literature to help those studying the congress materials and special editions of the radio news.

The most extensive list of outlined measures was for the propagandist himself. Here were seminars for the leaders of the political exercise groups on the congress subjects, a theoretical colloquium with the officers, an open lesson in one of the political exercise groups, a seminar for the agitators and a conference for the members of the agitation and propaganda group....

"Well, the proposals are not bad," said the political worker approvingly. "We must also provide for meetings of the personnel with delegates from the 26th CPSU Congress. They will evoke great interest in the men. We will discuss your proposals with the commander, with the other comrades and, as they say, to work!"

Yevgeniy Korotayev prepared with particular care for his talk at the first seminar for the leaders of political exercise groups on the subject "The 26th Party Congress on the CPSU International Policy." He reread this section of the report of Comrade L. I. Brezhnev and referred to supplementary literature. And among the first materials studied were the works of V. I. Lenin.

The labor of the propagandist was productive. I happened to attend a seminar for the leaders of political exercise groups where Yevgeniy Korotayev gave an instructional report. Well thought-out and ordered sentences, interesting facts and examples taken from the documents of the 26th CPSU Congress as well as from the magazine KOMMUNIST [Communist], MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN' [International Life] and other periodicals--all of this made the propagandist's speech persuasive and understandable. He was able to lead the listeners to the firm conclusion that at present on the world scene one can clearly trace two directions of international policy--the policy of imperialism of undermining detente, intensifying the arms race, the policy of threats and intervention into the affairs of others and the suppression of the liberation struggle; the course of communism aimed at checking the arms race, strengthening peace and detente and for defending the sovereign rights and freedom of the peoples. "At present," said the propagandist quoting the words of Comrade L. I. Brezhnev from the congress report, "it is quite obvious that the Soviet Union and its allies at present more than ever before are the main support for peace in the world."

The regimental propagandist particularly pointed to the high praise which the congress gave to the moral-political and military qualities of the Soviet servicemen

and emphasized that this obliges the defenders of the motherland to carry out their patriotic and international duty even more zealously.

During the seminar for the group leaders an open lesson was also held. It was conducted in such a manner that in discussing it the first speakers were unable to note a single shortcoming. Only the trained eye of the propagandist spotted that while good they still had not exhausted the opportunities for achieving even higher results.

The conducted seminar for the non-T/O propagandists was a strong support in preparing for the forthcoming political exercises with the soldiers, sergeants and warrant officers ["praporshchik"] on the party congress materials. But things were not limited to just a seminar.

Sr Lt Korotayev, as the regimental propagandist, had established useful contacts with comrades responsible for ideological work in the party raykom. Having visited the propaganda section, Yevgeniy Korotayev learned that a group of graduate students from the Academy of Social Sciences under the CPSU Central Committee was in the rayon on a mission. The propagandist met with the group leader and invited the comrades to speak in the regiment to the officers conducting political exercises for the soldiers and sergeants. It was decided to hold a round-table meeting with them on the subject "The CPSU Economic Strategy at the Present Stage. Party Activities to Improve the Economic Mechanism."

On the designated day the officers filled the regimental club. The meeting was opened by the unit propagandist. Having again reminded them of the historic significance of the 26th CPSU Congress and the decisions approved by it, he turned the floor over to L. V. Grechishnikov, the leader of the Labor Resources Sector of the USSR Gosplan and graduate student at the Academy of Social Sciences under the CPSU Central Committee. Speaking after him were other graduates who had been delegates to the party congress, Ye. I. Vasil'chikov and V. M. Chicherin, the managing worker of the Novosti Press Agency N. V. Mikhnevich and others. The talk lasted several hours. There were questions and more questions.... Seemingly there was no end to them. Even then the meeting participants did not leave for a long time, talking about urgent political events. At the end an unanimous desire was voiced to hold another meeting.

It was soon held but now on the subject "The International Position of the USSR and Foreign Policy Activities of the CPSU and Soviet Government." This time meeting in the club were not only the regiment's officers but also the warrant officers. Everyone listened with interest to the talks by international reporters and other specialists on foreign policy questions.

During the same period the regimental propagandist, along with the club chief, Lt R. Nurgatin, conducted several movie and lecture evenings on the subject "From Congress to Congress Along the Path to Communism." After an introductory word by the regimental propagandists, the films "The Labor Pace of the Five-Year Plan," "The USSR--The Standardbearer of Peace" and others were shown at these evenings.

The unit library was also involved in the work of propagandizing the congress materials. Korotayev helped the librarian E. A. Shishova prepare literature for a book

exhibit on the party and to hold several reviews of periodical materials and a number of talks with readers on the decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress.

But during these days the propagandist himself was busiest. In going to the sub-units, he assembled the platoon agitators and the members of the Lenin room councils and gave them recommendations on how to better explain and propagandize the materials of the party congress. And often among the soldiers by his personal example he showed the young activists how this should be done in practice.

In the evenings Yevgeniy Korotayev spent a long time in the pedagogical office as this was one of his work areas. Officers constantly went there to gain advice on some difficult question. And no one left without receiving a thorough explanation. This pleased Korotayev and caused a feeling of satisfaction and great pride for his difficult and honorable work as a propagandist about which Comrade L. I. Brezhnev spoke so warmly at the party congress.

"...The propagandist," pointed out Brezhnev, "is the chief figure in the party training system. Much depends precisely on him, how will be the seminars, political schools and universities. Will they be a place where boredom reigns where they merely 'work through' the set number of hours or, on the contrary, will they everywhere become effective centers of lively party thought and words? The attitude of people toward party studies depends primarily upon the party's ideological and propaganda aktiv. The people should gravitate to it themselves in order to collectively discuss the urgent problems of party theory and policy, to gain answers to the questions which concern everyone and add to their ideological and theoretical baggage."

Sr Lt Korotayev endeavors to be precisely such a propagandist. He sees his party duty and his calling in this.

At present Yevgeniy probably could not say precisely when his desire developed to be become an officer. Not merely an officer but precisely a political worker. Possibly while still in school, in reading books about the stormy days of the Civil War the fiery word "commissar" was imprinted in his mind. It always caused a rush of emotion in his heart. Among his favorite songs was one about the commissars.

You threw the men into a charge,
Dealing blows to the enemy,
Deputy political leaders and political leaders,
And as before, commissars!

Possibly the decision to become a political worker came later, at the very end of his school studies when a grey haired officer attended his class at one of the "lessons of courage." It was not just the medals on his dress tunic, but primarily the lively gleam in his eyes which had not been eradicated by time when he told of his combat comrades with whom he had fought through fire and water which caused a very stirring feeling in the heart of Yevgeniy Korotayev. This combat veteran had been a political worker.

All of this led Yevgeniy Korotayev to the walls of the Novosibirsk Higher Military-Political Combined-Arms School imeni 60-Letiye Velikogo Oktyabrya. In truth, this was not immediately after school. Initially there was a training subunit in the

airborne troops which Korotayev completed successfully and became a sergeant and squad commander. Later there was service in one of the units where the desire to become an officer, in developing obscurely in his school years, became firm and unquestioned, as a goal in life.

Korotayev kept the fondest memories of the time spent in the school. He studied zealously. He loved to go to the Scientists Club in Akademgorodok and hear speeches by prominent scientists. After completing the school he was appointed the deputy commander for political affairs of a paratroop company in a small southern town in which one could clearly feel the proximity of the sea. This was particularly felt in the winter months when the sea carried in heavy fogs and tedious, dank rains. Then Yevgeniy with particular sadness recalled the bracing Siberian frosts and snow which covered the streets up to the balconies of the second stories.

Incidentally, the company zampolit [deputy commander for political affairs] did not have much time for recollections or lyricism. Yevgeniy was engulfed in official affairs. And there were many of them as for any young company political worker who had become a mentor of scores of all sorts of men, happy and gloomy, disciplined and not very, experts of military affairs and still green recruits.

Korotayev became their indoctrinator. Initially, of course, by assignment. He still had to become a true indoctrinator in learning the secrets of dealing with people. Descriptions about this complex and noble profession provide little; it is essential oneself to gain the particles of knowledge and experience, to learn to work with people in order to be able to approach each person and find the key to his heart. From his own experience Korotayev was convinced that the heart of any person or his soul could be opened only by your own open heart and your soul which is capable of sensing another's pain just as acutely as one's own. Approach a person boldly with an open heart and if he feels that you have come to him with good intentions, without false pretext, he will open his soul to you.

The regimental propagandist is particularly fond of the warm words by comrade L. I. Brezhnev devoted to the army political workers. "A true political worker in the army," wrote Brezhnev in the book "Malaya Zemlya," "is a person around whom the men are grouped; he truly knows their moods, needs, hopes and dreams and he leads them to self-sacrifice and heroic deeds. And if it is considered that the morale of the men has always been judged the most important factor in the steadfastness of the troops, during the war years the sharpest weapon was entrusted precisely to the political worker. He tempered the hearts and souls of the men and without this neither the tanks, the cannons nor the aircraft would have brought us victory."

Yevgeniy Korotayev has written out these words in his notebook; he often reads them and remembers them almost word for word. But the main thing is something else. He has tried and does try to act precisely thus in his daily life. He always approached the soldiers with an open heart. Never before had he so directly set the task for himself of holding a sincere talk with one man today and with another tomorrow. He was near the men and the sergeants in the exercises in the field and at the firing range. His words could be heard in the waiting areas before loading into the aircraft, as well as in the enormous cabin of the military transport. Held straight, like everyone else, by the tight harness straps, he succeeded in talking with one or another group of paratroopers. They spoke about different things.

About the home which the soldier always remembers and about the task which they were to carry out now.

The airborne troops were accustomed to their zampolit and everyone considered him one of their own. No, in their relationships there was not even a hint of familiarity (Korotayev would not permit this) and everyone in the company used his full official title of "comrade lieutenant." But they considered him one of their own because they knew that everything that concerned each of them caused the same sympathetic feeling in the company zampolit. He had learned to spot any changes in the mood of a soldier. He could spot and ably and tactfully note the reason for such a change and do everything to help the man. Many soldiers were amazed how the zampolit could know what was on their mind.

Korotayev was particularly fond of talking to the soldiers and telling about party policy, international affairs and the work of the fathers and mothers of the men. He could talk in such a manner that the soldiers inevitably became aware of their duty and of the calling of the defenders of the motherland. They realized this themselves in just listening to the political worker, although he was not fond of grandiloquent words.

For this reason no one in the company was surprised when they learned that Lt Korotayev had been promoted to a zampolit in a warrant officers school. They merely regretted that they would not hear any more of his talks and his intelligent and sincere conversations.

Yevgeniy Korotayev did not stay long in the airborne warrant officers school. Here he finally concluded that ideological work was his calling. His superiors reached the same conclusion.

From the efficiency report of Sr Lt Ye. N. Korotayev: "He likes to give lectures and talks. He has mastered the methods of public speaking well. He should be used in propaganda work."

Having become the propagandist of a paratroop regiment, Sr Lt Korotayev has endeavored to carry out his duties with the same unstinting dedication as previously in the company and in the warrant officers school. And now he has significantly more duties. But at present the officer is endeavoring to carry them out creatively and is always searching for and finding skillful, interesting forms of work which make an impression in the hearts and minds of the paratroopers. Many in the regiment at present recall the round-table meetings, the special morning meetings, the movie and lecture evenings and the oral magazines given by him and try to be present without fail at the lectures when they are given by propagandist Korotayev.

Once I happened to be a casual witness of a talk between two officers.

"I heard that today in the unit club there is to be a lecture on the international situation," said one.

"Who is giving it?" said the other with interest.

"Our propagandist, Sr Lt Korotayev."

"Fine! My wife and I today were planning to see a new film. Now we must put it off."

I thought that these simple daily words reflected very high praise for the work of the propagandist.

Yes, this day was not an easy one for the regimental propagandist. Since morning he had been conducting political exercises in a reconnaissance company on the materials of the 26th CPSU Congress. He described the party's international policy and the present situation in the world. Here he endeavored to so explain the material that each man was profoundly aware that the increased military danger caused by imperialism is a harsh reality of today. And he would realize this and draw corresponding conclusions on the need to increase vigilance and combat readiness.

"Peace for the Soviet people, the builders of communism, peace for all peoples, this is the highest goal of CPSU foreign policy activities," said the propagandist, Sr Lt Korotayev, in concluding his lecture in the political exercises. "But we do not beg for peace; we are ready to defend it, and this is the main task of the Soviet Armed Forces as stated in the USSR Constitution. The Armed Forces of our states are you and me. They are our first-class weapons and military equipment, our military skill, our unshakable morale--all that comprises the military potential of the Soviet Army and Navy.

"For this reason, if we wish for peaceful blue skies always over our beloved motherland, if we want our fathers and mothers, our brothers and sisters to work peacefully, then always be on guard, comrade soldiers! Spare neither strength nor tenacity to become masters of the military specialties and outstanding men in training."

The lecture was over. The speech of the propagandist had lasted just an hour and a half. But his words certainly long remained in the hearts of the men and increased their combat mood.

Then the propagandist had a long talk with the secretary of the company Komsomol organization, Pfc Yershov. He asked help in how to organize work in providing aid to the Komsomols in studying the party congress materials. Then Korotayev left for the field with one of the companies. He wanted to share his practical experience in organizing party political work in tactical exercises with the young political worker. Returning to the regiment, he prepared a page for the next issue of the radio news as he had to talk about the men who had distinguished themselves in the tactical exercise.

Toward the end of the day, Sr Lt Korotayev went to visit the regimental zampolit, Lt Col V. Sherstyuk. The subunit political workers had already reported to him that the first political exercises on the materials of the 26th CPSU Congress as a whole had been conducted successfully everywhere. Hence the labor spent on preparing them was justified. Communist Yevgeniy Korotayev felt joy and moral satisfaction from the awareness that he had made his own contribution to achieving this success and had participated in a major and important cause, the explaining of the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress to the men.

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AIR DEFENSE FORCES

MISSILE BATTALION: TRAINING METHODS DESCRIBED

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 9, May 81 (signed to press 17 Apr 81) pp 44-47

[Article by Lt Col G. Kurdin: "The Missile Troops are Always on Guard!"]

[Text] The personnel of the antiaircraft missile battalion commanded by Lt Col V. Prikhod'ko, like all the Soviet military, with enormous interest is studying the materials of the 26th CPSU Congress. The defenders of the motherland ardently and unanimously support the domestic and foreign policy of the home Leninist party the highest aim of which is the good of the people.

In response to the high praise given the Soviet Armed Forces by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev in the Accountability Report of the CPSU Central Committee, the missile troops are increasing the effort in training and service and are steadily struggling to fully and unconditionally carry out the socialist obligations assumed in the competition under the motto "For High Combat Readiness and Firm Military Order!" in order to fete the fatherland with new successes in military service.

For 4 years running the battalion has kept the title of outstanding. In responding to the challenge of the antiaircraft missile regiment commanded by Col V. Parshikov, the men of the advanced subunit have actively joined the competition and have promised to reaffirm the title of outstanding battalion.

The missile troops are firmly keeping their word. They stand alert duty only with good and excellent evaluations, they show unceasing vigilance and in the winter training period carried out the exam problem with a high grade. In inspections they never missed a control target and are always ready to repel an air attack by any aggressor. The socialist obligations have been fully carried out. The communists V. Kashirin, V. Boroshko, Yu. Kosenko, V. Prikhod'ko and others set the example in training and service. The launch crew headed by Jr Sgt A. Namazaliyev has achieved noticeable results in training and has surpassed the standard by 10 percent. The crew commanded by WO ["praporshchik"] G. Kazakhbayev excellently carried out field firing at the range and took first place in the unit.

In the battalion's achieving of high limits of military skill an important role has been played by the effective party political work of the commanders, the political workers, the communists and Komsomol activists. During the winter training period this was first conducted under the motto of active preparations to properly greet

the party congress and then in a situation of widely propagandizing and thoroughly studying its materials and decisions. This work had and has a specific, concrete nature in pursuing primarily the goal of contributing to the excellent skills of the launchers, the manual tracking operators, the men of the launching crews and the men of the other combat specialties. Its organization can best be traced in the preparations for and conducting of field firing which is a real test of the military maturity of the battalion's personnel and its readiness to repel any enemy if it should endeavor to invade our Soviet skies.

Preparations for the firing started on the first days of the training year. Everything was carefully planned and thought out. The party political measures were devoted to the most important questions which had to be resolved prior to leaving for the field. The plans were discussed without fail with the battery commanders and the secretaries of the party and Komsomol organizations. At a seminar held by the unit political section for the secretaries of the party and Komsomol organizations, the chief of the political section described what ideological indoctrination should be carried out. Then the secretaries from the party and Komsomol organizations of the adjacent battalion which had carried out field firing earlier shared their experience.

Considering that the tasks of field firing under present-day conditions have become much more complicated and the demands placed on each crew and on the special and technical training of the men, primarily the officers, have increased significantly, the commander and the party organization were more concerned with the quality of the planned exercises and training and with developing in the men creative initiative in mastering the equipment. The basic attention of all the personnel was focused on a thorough mastery of the schematics and design of the units, their functional duties, the acquiring of solid skills in combat work and on the teamwork in the actions of all crews. The communists delved actively into the training and indoctrinational process and helped create favorable conditions for the training and service of the men. Party and Komsomol meetings were held at which there was an interesting discussion of the vanguard role of the communists and Komsomol members in preparing for the forthcoming firings. In the course of the discussion, the speakers boldly brought out shortcomings in the activities of the party and Komsomol organizations, they outlined the ways for eliminating these shortcomings and propagandized advanced experience. Personnel meetings were also held.

As a result the firing tasks and conditions were brought to each officer, warrant officer, sergeant and soldier. The battalion developed a well organized socialist competition for excellent preparations for the field firing. Specific obligations were assumed and they encompassed a broad range of questions. The communists helped the men weigh their forces and capabilities, to set high but realistic obligations and to determine the times for carrying them out. They also advised who should compete with whom. The basic emphasis was put on a competition for the tasks and standards.

During the preparatory period for the firings, the launch batteries held contests to master the standards directly on the equipment. During the operations one crew watched the other while it worked. The commander pointed to mistakes and gave recommendations on avoiding them. The men also voiced their opinion. Thus reciprocal supervision was provided. Also instructive was the exchange

of experience on the question "Ways and Methods for Surpassing the Standards of Combat Work." Sgts V. Larionov and I. Kolmakov who spoke in the course of it clearly showed how to perform each operation and what had to be done to save precious minutes and seconds.

In party political work great attention was devoted to the questions of improving the technical training of the men. Just how great the importance of this question is can be seen from the fact that a portion of our operators and virtually all the men of the launch crews are men in the first year of service. For this reason the battalion's command did not restrict itself to just the planned exercises but also sought out other diverse forms for training the young soldiers. For example, great benefit was provided by colloquiums on the design of the combat complex, question and answer evenings, consultations and contests on the operation of individual assemblies and units and lectures on the following subjects: "The Conditions and Procedure of Field Firings," "The Physical Essence of Checking a Combat Complex" and "To Efficiently Operate Military Equipment is the Duty of Each Man."

The personnel was also vitally interested in the technical conferences on: "Malfunctions During Firing and Methods of Eliminating Them," "Functional Duties of the Men of a Launch Unit and Operators in Field Firing" and others. Upon the initiative of the Komsomol members supported by the commander, the outstanding men in training, the sergeants and second-year soldiers assumed sponsorship of the young men and helped them better master the practical procedures of working on the military equipment.

The technical circles also proved to be a good form of extraplan combat training for the men and these were set up in each battery. Exercises in them were held twice a week on subjects related to the preparations for the firing.

Much effort was made to improve the physical plant in each battery. The communists and Komsomol members helped make visual aids of the station, models of pulse equipment and meters.

With the young officers exercises were held regularly in the organizing of the firings and studying the functional and schematic diagrams. They all had their personal plans for technical training and the execution of these was supervised by the battalion commander and the battery commanders. Individual exercises were set for those officers who were to participate for the first time in the field firing. The experienced engineers and technicians helped them. Colloquiums and consultation were held on the most complicated questions of the training program.

The course of preparing for the field firing was constantly taken up in the wall press and the local radio. The newspapers and radio broadcasts propagandized the experience of the best men and announced the results of the socialist competition. The outstanding men in training were described in combat leaflets while the laggards were criticized in a satirical newspaper. The course of the preparations to carry out the crucial task was depicted daily on a specially drawn up stand. Another stand gave the conditions for the combat and training tasks and the standards for combat work. In front of the barracks entrance they had hung up panels with the appeals: "Serviceman! Have you done everything to receive an excellent evaluation in the firings?" and "Remember: (So Many) Days Remain to the Firing!"

The members of the agitation and propaganda collective under the political section did extensive work among the battalion personnel. They read lectures on the following subjects: "The 26th CPSU Congress on the Further Strengthening of the Armed Forces" and "The Demands of Modern Warfare on Military Discipline."

With the approach of the day for leaving for the field, the intensity of party political work increased. The deputy commander for political affairs, Capt S. Manayenkov, with the aid of the activists prepared a sufficient number of visual agitation materials including posters and slogans which urged the missile troops to carry out the firings with just excellent evaluations. In the field Lenin room they had made up attractive sheets with the requirements of the safety techniques, the standards of combat work and space had been assigned for the combat leaflets and express leaflets. Literature had been selected for political exercises.

An open party meeting was held prior to the departure. At it the communists discussed their tasks for the period of the railroad move. In carrying out the meeting decision, the party organization secretary and the Komsomol organization secretary allocated the party and Komsomol aktiv and instructed it. Exercises were conducted with the personnel in studying the railroad traffic rules. The preparations ended with a meeting at which the soldiers, sergeants, warrant officers and officers leaving for the range stated that they would honorably carry out the task confronting them.

All these measures helped create a high combat mood among the men and sharpened the feeling of responsibility for the forthcoming exam for combat maturity. The party political influence on the men did not end enroute as political exercises, political-information sessions and talks were also held. Fresh newspapers, magazines and literature were delivered promptly. The efforts of the commanders, political workers, the communists and Komsomol members brought good results. The march was carried out successfully without a single infraction of discipline.

During the stay of the men at the range, party political work assumed an even more effective nature. Chief attention was paid to individual action directly at the work areas. The communists realized that during this period it was important to encourage the men and instill confidence in their own forces. By personal example the party and Komsomol activists focused all on the exemplary carrying out of the field firings. Agitators worked in each crew and squad.

By the efforts of the party and Komsomol organizations the socialist competition was given a more concrete and effective nature. The men of similar specialties such as radar operators, the men of the launching units and diesel operators competed primarily with each other. They assumed obligations to conscientiously carry out repairs and to flawlessly execute their functional duties.

Then began that crucial day when the result was summed up for the intense labor of all the personnel, the day of the field firings. The participating officers, warrant officers, sergeants and soldiers took their places. Fully ready and prepared by the able hands of the specialists the missile lay in its launcher and then roared off into the skies and everyone could see the vivid orange flash at the point where the air target had appeared for an instant. The men realized that this was a success, a victory! They had carried out the task excellently.

In the concluding stage of the winter training period, the battalion personnel with a new influx of force caused by the historic decisions of the 26th CPSU Congress struggled tenaciously to strengthen military readiness and order and to reaffirm the title of excellent and best subunit in the unit. The missile troops stand service conscientiously, they are always vigilant and always on guard.

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NAVAL FORCES

SOCIALIST COMPETITION: CRITICISM ON METHODS OF PUBLICIZING RESULTS

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 9, May 81 (signed to press 17 Apr 81) pp 87-89

[Article "From the Editor's Mailbag" by Capt-Lt V. Kocherov: "Thoughtfully Stimulate the Fulfillment of Each Obligation"]

[Text] Here, respected editors, is an episode which caused me to reflect. I happened to attend a regular summing up of the socialist competition in one of the ship subunits. The commander of the combat department who spoke to his subordinates was as terse as possible. He gave the basic indicators which ensured that the personnel had carried out the training exercise; in a few words he described the preparation of the young specialists for passing their exams for a class rating and in conclusion asked whether there were any questions.

"No questions," came voices from the rear.

The summing up of the results ended with this. Everything was over in literally 10 minutes, and no one seemed to be bothered. I voiced regret about this and the officer sincerely replied with the question:

"But why all the emotion here? We are not in the theater!"

I reminded him, "How can we do without evaluations--without grades on the competition's moral aspects, for example? After all, each sailor had definite responsibilities of a moral nature, so to speak. Having these aspects enter the competition without doing something to stimulate them is inconceivable. Remember how the campaign to speed the training of young specialists got started in your subunit:

...Once Sr Sn S. Kuznetsov visited from a neighboring squad at the training of the subordinates of CPO V. Savchenko. Kuznetsov inquired:

"How are you meeting the norms today?"

"Fine," the CPO replied happily and gave the time recorded by the stopwatch. "They have gained another 2 minutes. The novices are 'pushing' the experienced men."

"That can't be!" exclaimed the senior seaman and he hurried off to his squad. Soon thereafter Kuznetsov's comrades attended a training session of Savchenko's

subordinates. They visited and agreed upon the firm decision to achieve the same weighty results during the next week. These squads' competition to achieve the best rates soon encompassed all the specialists and was a prerequisite for the combat crew to successfully carry out the very complex training tasks.

"Certainly this entire struggle started," I recalled, "precisely out of emotions. But why has the analysis of the intense and inspired military service been made so mundane and reduced to the level of the most ordinary event?"

This question puzzled my friend but did not daunt him.

"Just what do you propose. To extend the analysis to 3 or 4 hours?" the officer complained. "I sum up the results of the competition as has been done for more than a year in the subunits."

Our discussion ended with this but it seems to me had not been exhausted. Here there is reason to reflect. The results of the competition are unswervingly summed up according to the established system. Here, as a rule, they compare only certain planned and accepted goals. An appeal to all points of the obligations is considered superfluous and this is most probably explained not by the commander's desire to understate or embellish something in assessing the state of affairs but rather by the inability to thoroughly analyze the activities of the collective and to consider all the factors describing the training and service of individual subordinates. Is this not shown, for example, from the following fact?

The grades were given immediately after summing up the results on a stand showing the course of the competition. Opposite the name of the young seaman A. Yefremov was the figure 4. This grade led one to believe that the sailor was a good student and had achieved much in his development. Let me repeat that the grade provided grounds to think thus but in fact this grade described only the readiness of Sn Yefremov to pass the exams for a class rating. It did not consider his indicators for the other points of the obligations.

There is no disputing, concern for the special training of subordinates is a question of primary importance. But what is even a good specialist worth if he, for example, does not have the proper volitional tempering and is negligent in service? Certainly modern combat demands from each serviceman not only high skill but also unflinching accuracy, aware independent actions and a psychological readiness to surmount any difficulties. Precisely those points in the obligations of the men which my fellow officer considered among the secondary help to indoctrinate these essential qualities in the personnel.

As is known, the very word "outstanding man" involves a certain concept of the "individual," that is, what precisely distinguishes this person from another or where his particular nature lies. In addition to the professionally known military qualities, such a serviceman possesses great spiritual values. He does not merely store these riches in himself but also generously shares them with those around, he agitates (in the good sense of the word) social life, he acts as the initiator and organizer of interesting and useful undertakings, in a word, he holds an activist position in life. In the course of the competition these qualities are disclosed in all their fullness and significance and this obliges the organizing officers to

examine them most closely and to thoroughly analyze the noble moral and ethical manifestations in the conduct of the men in summing up the results of the competition.

The five-point grade system is scarcely suitable for this. Nevertheless, there should be a specific assessment of the moral qualities of the men, how they carry out the requirements of the moral code of a builder of communism, the military oath and regulations. Obviously the obligations cannot be considered fulfilled if one or another serviceman is not conscientious in observing these requirements.

Each indoctrinator has the right himself to determine how it is best for him to record the achievements and shortcomings of competing subordinates. For such purposes the most experienced officers use diverse procedures and means. We feel that in this area particular attention should be given to the experience of the commander of the leading ship subunit, Officer V. Gusarov. For a long time now he has kept a log on the carrying out of socialist obligations, more accurately, an outline log which includes a graph with such points of the men's socialist obligations as: a rise in ideological-political and cultural level; special training; improving moral-combat and psychological qualities. In each of the designated sectors indicators are given for which the men compete. In the course of training officer Gusarov makes comments on the practical actions of the competitors.

In looking through the log, I became acquainted with the course of the competition in a subunit during one of the training periods. The comments showed that the sailors had basically mastered all the tasks confronting them. There was an increase in the number of outstanding men in military and political training and class specialists. The discipline of all the men was completely satisfactory and the state of the equipment was excellent. A majority of the sailors had good grades in the political exercises. Preparations for the exams for the class rating were going according to schedule.

I also encountered figures. They gave a notion of when and by how much the time had been reduced for preparing the stations and facilities for combat and a cruise and what the results had been in saving fuel and lubricants. Around the names of virtually all the competitors were various comments: one sailor had maintained the equipment excellently, another had submitted a valuable rationalization proposal, a third helped a comrade master a related specialty and a fourth conducted an interesting talk....

Among those who did not fulfill their obligations was Sr Sn Ye. Marakov. Previously he had achieved good training results but then fell behind. Why? The comments helped recreate the picture.

...This occurred during a cruise. The situation was tense. One input came after another. At that moment Malakov was lax and as a result of this let down his comrades who were working at full force. The officer recalled this at a meeting in summing up the results of carrying out the combat training task.

This time a first-class specialist, Sr Sn N. Kozlov, was among the laggards. It stated in the journal: "He does not find time to read newspapers and does not keep up on events occurring in the world." This, in particular, explained the unconfident answers by Kozlov during political exercises....

I happened to be at the next summing up of the results of the competition in this subunit. When at its end Officer Gusarov asked whether the subordinates had any questions, several hands went up. The sailors had questions but they were addressed not to the commander but to senior seamen Marakov and Kozlov. One could feel that the comrades were not indifferent as to why these experienced specialists had let them down.

Such a summing up of the results, as a rule, left no one indifferent. It provided rich food for thought for the party and Komsomol activists and helped the commander correctly shape public opinion and widely use it in the training and indoctrination of subordinates. Here each man profoundly felt his grade. Certainly it reflected not only the man's place in the competition but also his place among his comrades and in the collective.

The experience of Officer Gusarov and other able indoctrinators shows that the carefully thought out and sound summing up of results in carrying out the socialist obligations, like the competition itself, is a creative process. It should be aimed at encouraging activity among the men and the achieving of the highest training indicators by them. Let it be hoped that enterprising organizational efforts will be increased here. We are obligated to do this by the 26th CPSU Congress which pointed to the necessity of the greatest possible development of the socialist competition and the improving of its organization as well as by the recent Decree of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the AUCCTU and the Komsomol Central Committee on the All-Union Socialist Competition.

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LOGISTICAL SERVICES AND SPECIAL TROOPS

SUGGESTIONS AND INNOVATIONS: POSITIVE RESULTS DESCRIBED

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 9, May 81 (signed to press 17 Apr 81) pp 90-91

[Article "From the Editor's Mailbag" by Engr-Col A. Zenushkin: "Sharp Thinking People"]

[Text] The "Basic Directions for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in 1981-1985 and for the Period Up to 1990" point out: "To steadily increase the efficiency of social production on the basis of its all-round intensification and to improve the quality of products and services in all sectors."

The military motor vehicle repairmen at the enterprise where Engr-Col Ye. Palaznik is the chief, like all the armed defenders of the motherland, are working steadily to carry out these demands. Here everything is subordinate to carrying out the main task of returning the motor vehicle equipment to duty as quickly and efficiently as possible. The repairmen at the end of November 1980 fulfilled the plan quotas for the Tenth Five-Year Plan in the area of the major overhaul of automotive equipment. They have not lowered the pace in the first year of the 11th Five-Year Plan. At the enterprise the planned, technical reequipping of the shops is considered the basis of success. During the Tenth Five-Year Plan good changes occurred at each shop and section of the enterprise.

The rationalizers have made a major contribution to carrying out these tasks. Their activities, as a rule, have been aimed at eliminating the production "bottlenecks." At present it would be difficult to find a section in the production shops where the rationalizers have not visited and done some work. During the Tenth Five-Year Plan they submitted 869 proposals of which 698 are already in use in production and have produced a savings of around 300,000 rubles. These are scores of prototypes of highly productive equipment, advanced fittings, special tools and progressive production processes.

The communists and Komsomol members have set a worthy example in rationalization work. Thus, to the score of the enterprise chief are tens of valuable proposals. One of them is a device to lengthen connecting rods. The introduction of this device has made it possible to give a second life to this expensive and important part.

The Komsomol members, Pvts V. Saprionov and A. Litvinov, have proposed, manufactured and introduced into production a device in disassembling the vehicles to loosen the

U-bolt nuts holding the bodies to the frames. The device has made it possible to raise labor productivity and save parts which previously were cut off and discarded as scrap.

The Soviet Army employee S. Kanash has developed a universal mounting for the disassembly of engines. The introduction of the mounting has made it possible to raise labor productivity in disassembly jobs, to improve the quality of disassembly and significantly increase production efficiency.

Among the innovations we should note a unit for drying wood, machines for polishing the decorative panels of buses and for grinding the stator of the steering wheel hydraulic booster pump, a device for grinding the rocker block of a ZIL engine and welding the mufflers of the ZIL and Ural motor vehicles, the manufacturing of a radiator shell for the ZIL-130 vehicles out of polyester resin and others.

At the enterprise there are innovations of the rationalizers which are known far beyond the enterprise. For example, a unit for the automatic chlorinating of water developed by Jr Sgt S. Sintsov and Pfc N. Markov. It has been exhibited at the USSR VDNKh [Exhibit of National Economic Achievements] and was awarded a bronze medal and diploma. At present, a technical description and plans are being sent out at the request of many troop units, ministries and departments, enterprises and organizations, various institutions and schools. The numerous requests show that the rationalization proposal of these authors is a valuable one and is being widely used not only in the army but also in the national economy.

A rationalization commission headed by Engr-Maj A. Vitkovskiy works effectively at this enterprise. It has elaborated the plans for introducing technical innovations, each year it works out and sends out to all the personnel the subjects which the innovators should work on; it skillfully directs the initiative groups set up in all the shops from among the most experienced servicemen and Soviet Army employees; it announces, prepares and holds the months for collecting rationalization proposals; it puts out rationalization leaflets and promptly examines proposals.

The enterprise has set up a rationalizer room in which consultation is given and help provided to innovators. It has stands telling about the achievements of the rationalizers. The best of them are propagandized in combat leaflets, news photos and express leaflets. Each shop has a rationalizer corner where their activities are shown.

The production engineers and engineer-technical personnel provide great help to the rationalizers in the shops. They always help the smart-thinking men choose an area of work to eliminate "bottlenecks" in production and in working out the plans and drawings and making up the proposals.

The questions of rationalization work are constantly at the center of attention of the command, the party, trade union and Komsomol organizations. They are systematically examined also at the sessions of the party bureau and the Komsomol committee, at meetings of the trade union committee and party and Komsomol meetings.

The third section of the Basic Directions states: "...To assist in every possible way in the further development of the mass creativity of the inventors and

rationalizers. To strengthen the role of the scientific-technical societies in improving production."

Proceeding from this, the enterprise's party organization sees its task in moving farther in developing the rationalizing movement, in more efficiently utilizing the creative activeness of the servicemen and Soviet Army employees and adding to the contribution to successfully carrying out the quotas of the 11th Five-Year Plan.

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